

NEW SOUTH WALES.

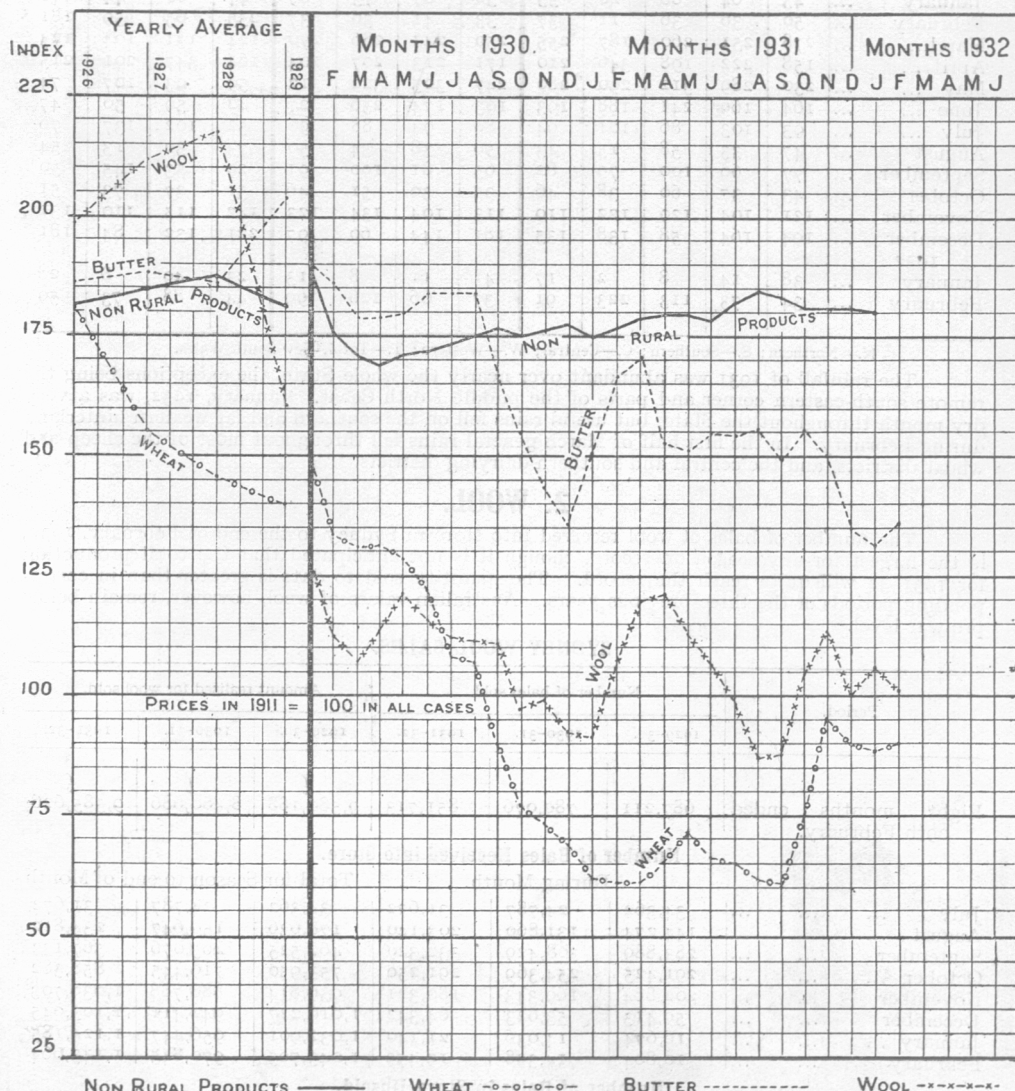
MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS STATISTICS.

No. 11. March 23, 1932.

Issued by T. Waites, Government Statistician.

INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911 = 100.



All prices are in Australian currency. The indexes for recent months are shown in table 23 on page 11 of this summary. The footnotes to that table apply also to this graph.

*71591-A

[Price, 3d.]

SECTION A.—RAINFALL AND PRODUCTION.

1. RAINFALL—INDEX.

Index showing Weighted Average Ratio of Actual to Normal Rainfall.
(Average rainfall for each month = 100.)

Month.	Sheep Districts.					Wheat Districts.				Dairying Districts.			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	T.	N.	C.	S.	T.	N.	C.	S.	T.
1931.													
January ...	43	64	68	20	55	52	67	73	69	44	60	44	48
February ...	50	36	36	11	37	33	41	36	37	255	63	59	181
March ...	278	251	260	187	255	250	241	286	270	124	131	104	123
April ...	158	222	198	346	210	171	213	207	204	164	347	201	215
May ...	230	289	312	290	280	247	305	329	312	59	93	107	74
June ...	164	169	241	188	193	193	174	256	227	42	59	50	47
July ...	93	103	86	101	94	89	94	88	90	52	102	137	76
August ...	47	33	58	15	43	56	38	54	50	73	30	13	54
September ...	77	69	100	79	82	65	81	100	91	29	53	145	50
October ...	43	37	60	38	46	35	39	51	46	51	37	73	51
November ...	121	104	129	122	119	113	104	134	123	142	115	110	131
December ...	194	164	58	138	135	181	144	60	97	221	132	84	181
1932.													
January ...	38	14	8	2	17	41	11	8	13	23	49	8	28
February ...	34	73	113	223	91	37	66	126	99	44	88	73	59

N.—Northern; S.—Southern; C.—Central; W.—Western; T.—Total, New South Wales.

The rainfall of 1931 was abundant over nearly the whole State, the exceptions being the remote south-eastern corner and parts of the middle North Coast. January, 1932, was a very dry month throughout the State, but useful rains fell on the southern and far western hinterland during February. In the first half of March general rains fell throughout most of the sheep and wheat districts, and the central and southern dairying districts.

2. WOOL.

The number of bales of wool received into store in Sydney to the end of February, 1932, is the largest for any season on record, though it is not anticipated that the total production for 1931-32 will quite reach the record. The quantity sold to date is greater than in corresponding periods of the three previous years. Australian values of wool, however, remain below pre-war level.

SYDNEY WOOL SALES.

Period.	Number of bales sold.			Amount realised for wool sold.		
	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Eight months ended 29th February.	687,211	780,076	851,713	£ 9,580,188	£ 8,460,686	£ 9,585,626

Number of Bales Received into Store.

	During Month.			Total for Season to end of Month.		
July ...	34,362	24,787	31,672	34,362	24,787	31,672
August ...	144,274	131,860	203,140	178,636	156,647	234,812
September ...	283,889	308,429	332,320	462,525	465,076	567,132
October ...	291,425	254,369	291,250	753,950	719,445	858,382
November ...	202,864	169,343	180,321	956,814	888,788	1,038,703
December ...	59,413	53,023	64,342	1,016,227	942,411	1,103,045
January ...	16,674	14,036	21,140	1,032,901	956,447	1,124,185
February ...	10,804	14,398	19,479	1,043,705	970,845	1,143,664

Number of Bales in Store Unsold.

29th February ...	363,066	193,852	307,164
-------------------	---------	---------	---------	-----	-----	-----

The course of wool prices is shown in Table 23.

3. WHEAT.

The preliminary estimate of the wheat harvest for 1931-32 was 54,140,000 bushels from 3,624,900 acres, the average yield being 14.9 bushels per acre.

WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTED OVERSEA FROM NEW SOUTH WALES (DIRECT).

Month.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Bushels of Wheat.			Tons of Flour.			
December	98,867	2,930,397	3,470,737	14,239	13,922	22,404
January	78,592	2,863,173	5,344,553	9,040	11,018	10,212
February	17,047	3,555,985	5,307,083	10,738	14,089	20,291
WHEAT AND FLOUR.						
Bushels of Wheat (Equivalent).			Value £.			
December	776,908	3,593,337	4,537,605	187,388	487,866	737,355
January	509,066	3,387,859	5,830,820	122,541	432,109	986,683
February	528,378	4,226,878	6,273,300	126,663	447,882	1,013,169
Total (3 months) ...	1,814,352	11,208,074	16,641,725	436,592	1,367,857	2,737,207

The exports overseas for the twelve months ended 30th November, 1931, were equivalent to 43,415,684 bushels of wheat, including 33,836,332 bushels of grain and 201,166 tons of flour, valued in all at £5,013,635.

It is estimated that 38,000,000 bushels will be available for disposal beyond New South Wales as wheat or flour in the year ended 30th November, 1932, and that of this quantity the equivalent of between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 bushels will be disposed of *via* Victoria. Exports in the three months ended 29th February have been relatively heavy.

4. BUTTER.

The production of butter, which was abnormally heavy in the seven months ended January, 1932, appears to have diminished in February in consequence of dry weather in the principal dairying districts.

Month.	Output of Butter (New South Wales factories).		Butter exported oversea (New South Wales).			
	1930.	1931.	Quantity.		Value.	
			1930.	1931.	1930.	1931.
Thousand lb.						
Year ended Dec. 31st ...	105,435	117,592	22,597	37,418	£ 1,345,840	£ 2,032,374
July	4,981	6,590	317	1,245	23,939	67,366
August	5,308	6,771	379	1,295	27,207	68,471
September	7,245	7,829	638	2,117	37,396	113,435
October	9,914	9,743	2,114	2,971	113,799	167,502
November	10,824	11,495	4,293	3,669	200,943	197,853
December	10,416	14,560	3,599	6,072	159,425	304,209
Total, July-Dec. ...	48,688	56,988	11,340	17,369	562,709	918,836
1931. 1932.						
January	9,913	13,879	2,883	7,901	144,211	374,938
February	10,662	...	3,855	5,092	230,461	245,812

5. COAL.

In the absence of monthly records of production, the best available indications of trends in the industry are provided by railway haulings and exports :—

Month.	Coal Hauled by Government Railways.†			Coal Exported from N.S.W.†
	1928.	1930.	1931.	
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
June	515,271	366,499§	409,901	235,100
July	585,437	509,511	410,852	213,700
August	568,620	391,761	312,314	187,300
September	428,865	416,914	368,864	198,600
October	498,005	421,232	351,318	180,000
November	575,354	343,446	349,895	202,700
December	456,722	292,340	336,539	185,300
Twelve months ended 31st December ...	6,198,971	.....	4,220,892	2,341,828
	1928.	1931.	1932.	1932.
January	546,533	296,226	325,634	157,000*
February	502,801	336,764	370,000*	205,000 *

* Approximate.

† Cargo and bunker, Oversea and Interstate.

‡ Excludes coal used by the Railway Department and coal shipped or used in New South Wales without being hauled over Government railways.

§ Northern mines resumed operations 2nd June, 1930.

6. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

Tabulations embracing monthly returns from 42 large factories show the following results which afford some indication of trends in the manufacturing industry :—

Month.	Factory Sales.			Employees.			Weekly Salaries and Wages.		
	1930.	1931.	1932.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	Thousand £.			Hundreds.			Hundred £.		
January	2,553	1,982	1,824	180	135	137	776	542	498
February	2,630	1,993	...	179	140	...	769	535	...
March	2,607	1,977	...	174	142	...	732	539	...
April	2,351	1,867	...	167	140	...	697	531	...
May... ..	2,384	1,929	...	162	137	...	667	526	...
June	2,130	1,879	...	159	137	...	638	506	...
July... ..	2,312	1,986	...	153	135	...	620	516	...
August	2,071	1,845	...	152	136	...	598	514	...
September	2,131	1,889	...	152	140	...	566	519	...
October	2,208	1,914	...	150	142	...	555	539	...
November	2,204	2,050	...	149	142	...	553	528	...
December	2,222	2,265	...	141	142	...	596	527	...
Total	27,803	23,576	...	1,918	1,668	...	7,767	6,322	...

7. BUILDING INDUSTRY.

PERMITS TO ERECT NEW BUILDINGS.

	Total Value for Year ended 31st December.			Country Municipalities (December Quarter).		Suburbs. (Month of February).		
	City.†	Suburbs.	Country.‡	No.	Value of Buildings.	Year.	No.	Value of Buildings.
	£	£	£		£			£
1929	*	9,070,006	4,543,221	981	827,182	1930 ...	303	303,520
1930	*	2,356,053	1,852,921	265	146,062	1931 ...	65	64,493
1931	668,360	454,611	611,757	169	81,965	1932 ...	51	36,264

* Not available.

† New buildings and additions. Metropolitan Area.

‡ Municipalities and seven Shires adjoining

Figures as to permits to erect new buildings show in advance the trend in the building industry. Comparative figures for previous months, quarters and years, are shown on page 21 of the "New South Wales Statistical Bulletin" for December Quarter, 1931.

SECTION B.—TRADE.

8. VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

To and from New South Wales direct Oversea.

	Month of February.			Eight Months ended 29th February.		
	Imports.	Exports.*	Excess of Exports.*	Imports.	Exports.*	Excess of Exports.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1930 ...	3,892,108	2,915,075	(—) 977,033	41,997,898	21,937,383	(—) 20,060,515
1931 ...	1,661,724	3,066,190	\$ 1,404,466	19,970,622	20,053,965	\$83,343
1932† ...	1,384,966	3,936,399	\$2,551,433	11,818,379	23,562,210	\$11,743,831

(—) Denotes excess of Imports.

‡ See notes below.

† Subject to revision.

* Excluding gold specie valued at £1,005,000 in September, 1929, £107,500 in November, 1929, £302,250 in December, 1929, £272,250 in January, 1930, £299,484 in October, 1931, £289,973 in November, 1931, £135,756 in December, 1931, £134,285 in January, 1932, and £291,943 in February, 1932, and of negligible amount in other periods shown.
(Australian currency values.)

The values of imports represent the cost f.o.b. port of export plus 10 per cent., and are recorded in English currency. The values of exports are the values in the principal markets of New South Wales, less bonuses on butter, &c., and are recorded in Australian currency. The excess of exports marked \$ above is consequently overstated.

9. WHOLESALE TRADE.

AMOUNT of Recorded Sales (New South Wales) under Sales Tax Act.

Month.	Taxable Goods.	Exempt Goods.	Total.	Month.	Taxable Goods.	Exempt Goods.	Total.
1930.		Million £		1931.		Million £	
October ...	5.07	5.96	11.03	August ...	4.68	4.42	9.10
November ...	5.26	5.74	11.00	September ...	4.81	5.64	10.45
December ...	5.47	6.30	11.77	October ...	4.84	5.63	10.47
1931.				November ...	4.80	5.71	10.51
January ...	4.20	5.13	9.33	December ...	4.91	6.56	11.47
February ...	4.56	5.15	9.71	Total, 1931 ...	58.32	63.90	122.22
March ...	4.82	4.82	9.64				
April ...	5.27	6.10	11.37	1932.			
May ...	5.16	4.65	9.81	January ...	4.53	5.36	9.89
June ...	5.64	5.07	10.71				
July ...	4.63	5.02	9.65				

The amounts of sales of taxable goods represent the approximate trend of wholesale trade in local and imported secondary products. An increased rate of tax was imposed on 11th July, 1931.

RETAIL TRADE.

Efforts are being made to obtain data as to the volume of retail business.

SECTION C.—TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC.

10. RAILWAYS.

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS REVENUE AND BUSINESS.

The financial results of operations were :—

		Month of January.			Seven months ended 31st January.		
		Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
1930	...	1,652,137	1,268,961	383,176	11,288,615	8,917,883	2,370,732
1931	...	1,418,057	1,073,826	344,231	9,453,331	7,495,924	1,957,407
1932	...	1,358,400	1,032,809	325,591	9,037,936	7,189,582	1,848,354

* Interest and Sinking Fund on loan capital are not included as working expenses.

The amount of interest chargeable against the railways in 1930-31 was £6,790,082, exclusive of £737,633 exchange.

		Month of January.		Seven months ended 31st January.	
		Net Goods Ton-mileage.*	Passenger Journeys.	Net Goods Ton-mileage.*	Passenger Journeys.
		thousands.	thousands.	thousands.	thousands.
1930	...	128,543	12,279	990,649	88,850
1931	...	140,201	10,115	904,523	75,468
1932	...	147,722	10,331	902,551	71,989

* Goods (including wayleave) and live stock. Ton-mileage represents the weight times the distance (miles) it was carried.

For the year ended 30th June, 1931, the decrease in passenger mileage was 19.3 per cent. and in passenger journeys 14.2 per cent., as compared with 1929-30.

11. TRAMWAYS.

NEW SOUTH WALES TRAMWAYS.

		Sydney and Suburbs.			Newcastle and Suburbs.		
		Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers Carried.	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers Carried.
		£	£		£	£	
Twelve months ended 30th June, 1931		2,894,285	(—) 11,060	253,243,078	164,186	(—) 51,864	13,103,723
July	...	221,392	7,276	19,624,627	12,543	(—) 3,335	1,156,986
August	...	209,959	(—) 6,387	18,607,992	12,299	(—) 3,473	1,134,479
September	...	209,059	7,688	18,527,948	12,243	(—) 5,693	1,129,314
October	...	226,287	9,515	20,023,810	14,663	(—) 1,044	1,381,753
November	...	264,651	21,781	23,020,704	15,724	(—) 714	1,493,809
December	...	298,783	47,300	25,981,876	18,996	2,041	1,784,276
1932.							
January	...	303,428	51,819	24,257,242	17,166	1,687	1,635,351
February	...	271,153	†	23,686,060	17,050	†	1,551,361

* Interest and Sinking Fund on loan capital are not included as working expenses. The amount of interest chargeable against the tramways in 1930-31 was £455,725, exclusive of exchange. (—) Denoted excess of working expenses over earnings.

† Not available.
Corresponding figures for February, 1931, were :—Metropolitan—Earnings, £220,155; excess of earnings over working expenses, £6,226; Passengers, 19,833,576. Newcastle—Earnings, £11,670; excess of earnings over working expenses, (—) £4,245; Passengers, 1,109,776.

12. MOTOR VEHICLES.

NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES (N.S.W.), AS AT VARIOUS DATES.

Class.	30th June—			30th Sept., 1931.	31st December, 1931.	31st January, 1932.	29th February, 1932.
	1929.	1930.	1931.				
Cars	162,298	169,495	154,096	148,874	146,693	145,123	144,597
Lorries and Vans	41,689	45,309	41,788	40,134	39,961	39,475	38,709
Cycles	30,937	29,410	25,453	24,330	23,859	23,494	22,962

Decrease.

	Cars.	Lorries, and Vans.	Cycles.
Three months ended 30th November, 1931	4,043	860	841
„ „ 29th February, 1932	2,477	1,180	967

The number of new cars registered during the four weeks ending on the first Tuesday in March, 1932, was 246, compared with 334 and 1,445 in the corresponding periods of 1931 and 1930 respectively.

SECTION D.—FINANCIAL.

13. SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS (N.S.W.).

Date.	Amount of Deposits.	Date.	Amount of Deposits.
1929—June 30	£ 85,727,514	1931—August 31	£ 70,373,579
1930—June 30	82,465,430	September 30	71,448,529
September 30	78,552,912	October 31	72,208,328
December 31	73,406,775	November 30	72,831,264
1931—March 31	70,773,167	December 31	72,358,482
June 30	69,810,769	1932—January 31	72,068,911
July 31	69,506,448		

14. TRADING BANKS—ADVANCES AND DEPOSITS (N.S.W.).

TOTAL (including Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and including Government Business).

December Quarter.	Deposits.	Advances, &c., and Government Securities.	Excess of Advances over Deposits, &c.
	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £
1929	130,071	152,705	22,634
1930	125,823	146,760	20,937
1931	118,001	131,150	13,149

15. PRIVATE BUSINESS IN PRIVATE BANKS (N.S.W.).

(Excluding Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and excluding Government Deposits and Government Securities in Private Trading Banks.)

December Quarter.	Deposits.			Advances, &c.	Excess of Advances over Deposits.	Ratio of Advances to Deposits.
	Bearing Interest (Fixed).	Not Bearing Interest (Current).	Total.			
	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	per cent.
1929	64,886	41,786	106,672	114,201	7,529	107.1
1930	65,679	37,616	103,295	104,656	1,361	101.3
1931	59,337	36,105	95,442	95,277	(-) 165	99.8

16. INTER-BANK CLEARINGS (SYDNEY).

(Value of cheques drawn on a Bank other than the Bank in which they were Deposited.)

Month.	1929.	1930.	1931.*	1932.*	1929.	1930.	1931.*	1932.*
	Amount—Million £				Index Numbers.			
January	86.2	78.2	67.4	46.7†	1038	990	809	622‡
February	88.1	75.5	63.8	47.3†	1047	958	808	624‡
March	89.8	83.7	69.9	...	1058	950	807	...
April	89.7	68.6	62.4	...	1093	926	811	...
May	89.7	76.7	54.0	...	1087	920	768	...
June	84.8	71.7	57.1	...	1089	893	741	...
July	88.8	73.7	48.9	...	1061	895	663	...
August	84.1	58.4	45.5	...	1078	850	648	...
September	78.7	61.7	54.6	...	1073	825	643	...
October	89.1	71.5	56.0	...	1057	802	655	...
November	85.5	65.8	50.6†	...	1026	806	658‡	...
December	88.9	86.8	52.9†	...	1014	803	635‡	...

* Adjusted by elimination of abnormal transactions on account of Governments.

† Unadjusted on account of amalgamation.

‡ Adjusted on account of amalgamation—Subject to revision.

Inter-bank clearings are regarded as an approximate measure of changes in the general volume of business transactions provided they are considered in conjunction with changes in price levels.

The index represents the ratio of each month's clearings to the average for the month concerned during the five years 1926–1930. This average is represented by 1,000 each month. Seasonal fluctuations have thus been eliminated. Casual fluctuations in monthly index numbers have been smoothed out by taking a three months' moving average, that is, the index shown above for each month is the average of the actual index of that month and the preceding two months.

No adjustment has been made for normal growth or change of price levels.

17. REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.).

			Month of February.		Two Months ended 29th February.	
			Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages.	Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages.
			£	£	£	£
1930	...	...	3,211,840	3,574,626	6,366,431	7,904,012
1931	...	...	1,576,684	2,156,627	2,373,481	3,903,311
1932	...	...	886,294	722,204	1,429,241	1,311,793

The amount of consideration of sales for 1931 is approximately 52 per cent., and the amount of mortgages approximately 53 per cent. of the corresponding figures for 1930 and transactions for the first two months of 1932 were respectively 60 per cent. and 34 per cent. of the amounts for the corresponding months of 1931. This decrease is partly due to a lower level of values.

18. LIENS ON CROPS AND WOOL AND MORTGAGES ON LIVESTOCK.

			Month of February.			Two Months ended 29th February.		
			Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.	Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.
			£	£	£	£	£	£
1930	...	...	727,731	181,915	257,536	1,021,810	305,838	384,670
1931	...	...	746,354	324,632	324,326	1,186,262	548,875	538,878
1932	...	...	701,963	235,759	137,649	1,381,978	351,207	252,739

The amounts involved in liens amounted to £11,617,449 for the year 1931, compared with £11,154,265 for 1930.

The numbers involved in liens and mortgages were as follow :—

Eight months ended 29th February.			Number of Crop Liens.	Number of Sheep subject to Liens on Wool.*	Number of Livestock under Mortgage.		
					Sheep.*	Cattle.	Horses.
1931	...	...	7,345	5,477,072	4,424,128	67,259	12,256
1932	...	...	6,071	5,211,965	5,182,523	72,137	12,777

* In many cases sheep are included under both headings.

19. BANKRUPTCIES.

Sequestrations and Deeds of Arrangement, New South Wales.

Year.			Month of February.		Two Months ended 29th February.	
			Number.	Liabilities.*	Number.	Liabilities.*
				£		£
1930	...	...	65	63,381	113	123,643
1931	...	...	136	269,870	246	453,361
1932	...	...	81	132,328	130	326,626

* Gross liabilities before deducting assets.

SECTION E.—GENERAL.

20. UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

				Month (a)—			Middle of Quarter ended—		
				October.	November.	December.	30th June (b).	30th Sept. (b).	30th Dec. (b).
				No.	No.	No.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1929	...	...	...	32,000	30,000	24,000	10·0	12·4	13·8
1930	...	...	...	90,000	90,000	80,000	21·0	23·3	26·3
1931	...	...	...	110,000	110,000	105,000*	30·7	31·6	31·5

* January, 1932, unchanged.

(a) Estimate as at end of month by Director of State Labour Exchange. (b) Estimate by Commonwealth Statistician representing proportion of unemployed members to total membership in unions reporting.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF WAGES PAID AND INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT.

Data are being sought under these headings.

21. STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX (SYDNEY).

The following index of the values of the principal Company shares on Sydney Stock Exchange embraces the ordinary shares of companies (excluding banking companies) whose business is conducted wholly or largely in New South Wales.

The prices of individual shares are unweighted, and the group averages are the means of the average monthly prices per £ of paid-up capital. The aggregate index is the average for the whole of the shares included in the groups with the addition of 24 miscellaneous shares. It represents the ratio of the average prices of ordinary shares to their par values.

Par Value of Shares = 100.

Month.	23 Manufacturing and Distributing Companies.	10 Retail Companies.	8 Public Utility Companies.	5 Pastoral and Finance Companies.	5 Insurance Companies.	Total * Companies 75.	34 Active Shares included in foregoing.
1931.							
January ...	81·2	66·7	90·8	60·2	134·6	79·2	85·3
February ...	80·8	66·1	90·0	61·2	127·5	77·8	84·8
March ...	82·9	71·5	88·9	80·7	132·1	81·5	90·2
April ...	82·9	71·3	89·1	81·5	137·6	82·8	90·7
May ...	81·7	67·9	86·7	79·8	126·8	80·4	88·5
June ...	78·2	66·5	89·4	78·0	120·0	77·9	85·4
July ...	77·3	65·9	90·8	79·3	119·0	77·4	83·5
August ...	76·1	62·9	89·3	77·6	118·3	75·3	80·6
September	72·3	60·3	87·9	75·2	121·3	72·4	77·2
October ...	77·4	64·3	90·6	84·8	129·8	76·8	84·2
November...	88·0	73·5	95·1	95·9	143·9	85·3	94·5
December ...	92·6	74·5	98·5	95·4	153·7	89·0	98·6
1932							
January† ...	94·2	75·5	110·0	95·3	158·7	90·8	100·9
February†	92·6	75·3	111·9	92·0	154·5	89·8	99·0

* Including 24 Miscellaneous Companies.

† Revised.

‡ Subject to revision.

The marked rise between September, 1931, and January, 1932, was followed by a slight recession in February, the movement in prices of active stocks being appreciably greater than in the remainder.

22. CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY.

Index of Monthly Sales of Gas and Electricity (Sydney).
(Based on number of units each equal to 3,412 British Thermal Units.)

Month.	Average, 1929 to 1931.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
January	1,000	1,031	1,013	956	929
February	1,000	1,044	981	974	983
March	1,000	1,018	1,011	971	...
April	1,000	1,036	1,004	960	...
May	1,000	1,055	1,000	944	...
June	1,000	1,035	999	966	...
July	1,000	1,052	987	960	...
August	1,000	1,061	998	940	...
September	1,000	1,085	979	936	...
October	1,000	1,093	972	934	...
November	1,000	1,093	961	946	...
December	1,000	1,043	983	973	...
Average (12 months)	1,000	1,054	991	955	...

23. INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911=100 in all cases.

Date.	Wool.	Wheat.	Butter.	Non-Rural.	All Commodities.
1911*	100	100	100	100	100
1929*	162	140	204	184	186
1930*	109	110	173	178	171
1931*	105	70	154	180	155
1931—January	91	62	152	175	154
February	106	62	168	177	154
March	120	61	170	179	157
April	121	65	154	180	158
May	114	72	151	180	156
June	106	66	156	179	155
July	98	64	156	183	155
August	88	62	156	185	154
September	88	61	150	184	154
October	106	75	156	181	153
November	114	96	151	181	156
December	100	92	136	181	156
1932—January	106	89	132	180	154
February	101	90	136	180†	155†

* Average for year.

† Subject to revision.

§ Includes only those (non-rural) primary, manufactured and imported commodities which are included in the index for all commodities. Highly manufactured articles are not included. The individual items are listed on page 488 of the "Official Year Book of New South Wales" for 1920.

The marked disparity between the relative price levels of the principal rural products and the non-rural group has been a prominent feature of price movements since the early part of 1930. Since October there has been some improvement in respect of wheat.

Prices of non-rural products rose slightly from January to April, 1931, then increased suddenly following the imposition of the Sales Tax in July, with a decline since August.

24. OVERSEA WHOLESALE PRICE LEVELS.

	1931.					1932.	
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Great Britain—							
Board of Trade (1924 = 100) ...	59.9	59.7	62.8†	64.0†	63.7†	63.7†	63.4
Economist (1927 = 100) ...	62.3	65.1	66.8	65.9	65.2	65.4	67.0
United States							
Irving Fisher (1926 = 100) ...	69.3	68.7	68.3	68.3	67.0	65.0	63.9*

* Two weeks.

† Revised.

25. PRICES OF METALS.

Average Monthly Spot Prices of Metals (London Exchange, English Currency).

Date.	Silver (Standard).	Lead.	Spelter.	Tin (Standard).	Copper (Standard).
	per oz.	per ton.	per ton.	per ton.	per ton.
1931.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
July	1 1.19	12 16 4	12 10 10	111 11 2	34 9 2
August	1 0.81	11 19 4	11 14 8	114 19 1	32 12 3
September	1 2.10	11 19 7	11 16 4	117 17 10	31 11 1
October	1 5.15	13 5 0	12 19 7	127 0 10	35 0 1
November	1 7.39	14 10 8	14 0 10	132 18 10	35 18 1
December... ..	1 8.02	15 5 6	14 11 9	138 19 7	38 6 6
1932.					
January	1 7.62	15 2 1	14 12 6	140 5 7	39 10 1
February	1 7.57	14 11 4	14 1 7	139 4 8	36 19 8
March (1st to 11th) ...	1 6.77	12 14 5	13 2 1	135 7 1	33 10 8

With the depreciation of the English pound as from 21st September prices rose in terms of English currency. During the first half of October prices showed little variation, but from the latter half of that month until the middle of January, 1932, there was a sustained rise followed by a recession.

26. SUMMARY.

The following table provides some indication of trends in 1931 in respect of the principal activities for which it is possible to indicate general trends by monthly figures :—

Refer to Table No.	16	9	6	5	7	10	22	11
Month.	Index of Bank Clearings.	Value of Goods sold at Wholesale.	Value of Goods sold by certain Factories.	Quantity of Coal Hauled by Railways.	Value of City and Suburban Building Permits. (d).	Number of Passengers Journeys on Railways.	Index of Quantity of Gas and Electricity Consumed.	Tramway Revenue.
1931.		£ (b)	£ (b)	tons (a)	£ (a)	(c)		£ (a)
January	809	933	198	296	107	101	956	284
February	808	971	199	337	143	98	974	232
March	807	964	198	367	464	107	971	254
April	811	1,137	187	282	255	100	960	249
May	768	981	193	399	82	102	944	246
June	741	1,071	188	410	78	106	966	240
July	663	965	199	411	84	97	960	234
August	648	910	185	312	88	101	940	222
September	643	1,045	189	369	42	100	936	221
October	655	1,047	191	351	45	98	934	241
November	658	1,051	205	350	53	108	946	280
December	635	1,147	226	337	31	112	973	318
1932.								
January	622	989	182	326	81	103	929	321
February	624	...	...	370	69	...	983	288

(a) Thousands. (b) Ten thousands. (c) Hundred thousands. (d) New buildings and additions.

The general position in regard to primary industries might be gauged by reference to tables 1 to 4, and to the prices shown in the graph on page 1, and in table 23.

NOTICE.

This summary is issued as soon as practicable after the 20th of each month. The subscription for twelve months is 3s. (posted), payable to the Government Printer, Phillip-street, Sydney, or 3d. per single copy at the Government Printing Office. This charge applies in all cases, except exchanges and Government Departments.

As space will not permit of repetition of matter, copies should be filed for reference.

Acknowledgment is made of the ready help given by numerous private organisations and businesses, and by various Government departments in providing data for tables contained in this summary.

The figures for the most recent months are, in general, subject to revision.

Bureau of Statistics, 36 Young-street, Sydney.

23rd March, 1932.